#7/a Audt 7-17-01 OC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	G.D. Boldt et al.	Examiner:	Nguyen T.
Serial No.:	09/207,810	Group Art Unit:	2182
Filed:	December 9, 1998	Docket No.:	BO998023
TITLE:	GRAPHICAL INTERFACE METHOD FOR COPYING PRINTER PROPERTIES ...		

7/5/01

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 2, 2001.

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07/19/2001 UCOLES 00000004 090457 09207810
01 FC:102 320.00 CH
02 FC:103 216.00 CH

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to a non-final Office Action dated March 1, 2001, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-22, 24-34 and 36 in view of prior art and found that claims 11, 23, and 35 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the base and all intervening claims. Applicants have amended certain claims to correct antecedent basis problems, rewritten allowable claims 11, 23, and 35 to include the base and all intervening claims, and added claims 37-48. Applicants traverse the rejection of the claims and submit that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 23, 29, 31, 33 and 35 as shown in the attached "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made", submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121..

Please add claims 37-48.

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1. (Amended) A method for configuring a target device linked to a network, wherein a plurality of devices communicate over the network, comprising the steps of:

determining a source device from the devices;

determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device;

determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing, wherein the determined features the target device is capable of implementing differ from the determined set of features; and

transmitting to the target device the values for the determined features that the target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the determined set of features are capable of being selected from a source file including features and values set therefor and wherein the target devices are capable of including at least one file to store values for selected features.

11. (Amended) A method for configuring a plurality of devices linked to a network, comprising:

(a) determining a source device from the devices;

(b) determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device by:

(i) displaying on a computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

(ii) receiving input from an input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

(iii) displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

(iv) receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

(i) displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

(ii) receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing; and

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features; and

(f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating values for selected feature that are not transmitted because the target device is not capable of implementing the selected value for the selected feature.

18. (Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the target and source devices are comprised of printers, wherein the target printers and processing unit communicate via the network.

23. (Amended) A system for configuring a plurality of devices linked to a network, comprising:

a processing unit capable of communicating with the plurality of devices over the network; and

a computer monitor in communication with the processing unit and an input device for transmitting data to the processing unit;

program logic executed by the processing unit, comprising:

(a) means for determining a source device from the devices;

(b) means for determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device by:

(i) displaying on a computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

(ii) receiving input from an input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

(iii) displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

(iv) receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

(i) displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

(ii) receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing; and

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features;

(f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating values for selected feature that are not transmitted because the target device is not capable of implementing the selected value for the selected feature.

29. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the determined set of features are capable of being determined from a source file including feature values and wherein the target devices are capable of including at least one file to store values for selected features.

31. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 30, wherein the determined features from the source printer are comprised of at least one feature that is a member of the set of features comprising:

network interface properties, wherein the target printers are configured with values for the network interface properties to control how the target printers use the network interface to communicate over the network;

print modes including simplex and duplex features;

a console lock feature, wherein a first value locks the printer console and a second value unlocks the printer console; and

an authentication protocol which is used to access the target printers over the network.

33. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 32, wherein the step of determining the plurality of target devices, comprises the steps of:

displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

35. (Amended) An article of manufacture for use in programming a computer to configure a plurality of devices over a network, wherein the computer includes a computer monitor and input device, and wherein the article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium including at least one computer program that causes the computer to perform the steps of:

(a) determining from the devices a source device;

(b) determining a set of features from the features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device, by:

i. displaying on the computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

ii. receiving input from the input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

iii. displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

iv. receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

i. displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

ii. receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box;

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing;

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of

values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features; and

(f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating that a value for a selected feature was not applied when the target device is not capable of implementing the selected feature.

37. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

38. The method of claim 1, wherein determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.

39. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

40. The method of claim 2, wherein determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.

41. The system of claim 13, wherein the program logic further comprises:

means for generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

42. The system claim 13, wherein the means for determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further performs:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.

43. The system of claim 14, wherein the program logic further comprises:

means for generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

44. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further performs:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.

45. The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

46. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the step of determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.

47. The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

48. The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the step of determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.

REMARKS

Applicants have rewritten allowable claims 11, 23, and 35 in independent form including the base and intervening claims from which they depend to place in condition for allowance. In amending claim 35, applicants included the limitations of claims 33 and 32, as claim 35 incorrectly depended from claim 36 instead of claim 33.

1. The Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, par. 2

The Examiner found that claims 1, 18, 31, lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 1, 18, and 31 to correct the antecedent basis problem. Thus, claims 1, 18, and 31, and claims 33 and 34 which depend therefrom, are patentable over Section 112, par. 2.

In particular, applicants amended the preamble of claim 1 to provide antecedent basis for the "devices" element.

Applicants amended claim 18 to replace "computer" with "processing unit", which has antecedent basis in claim 14.

Applicants amended claim 31 to depend from claim 30, which provides antecedent basis for the claim term "source printer".

The Examiner further found that claims 5 and 29 were indefinite because the meaning of the claim term "features" was not clear. Applicants have amended claim 5 and 29 to recite that the features are the "set of features" having antecedent basis in claims 2 and 27, which claim determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device.

Applicants have further amended claim 33 to depend from claim 32 to provide the first and second graphical dialog boxes as claim 33 recites a third graphical dialog box.

Applicants amended claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 23, 29, 31, 33 and 35 to correct antecedent basis problems, not to narrow the scope of claim limitations.

2. Independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 Are Patentable Over the Cited Art.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, and 25 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102(e)) by Goffinet (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,906). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 13, and 25 concern configuring a target device linked to a network, wherein a plurality of devices communicate over the network. A determination is made of a source device. A determination is then made of a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device. Features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing are determined, wherein the determined features the target device is capable of implementing differ from the determined set of features. The values for the determined features that the target device is capable of implementing are transmitted to the target device via the network, wherein the target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network.

Claims 1, 13, and 25 require determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing and then transmitting to the target device the values for the determined features that the target device is capable of implementing.

The Examiner found that the claim requirement of determining features that the target device can implement and then transmitting such determiend features is disclosed at column 15, lines 15-40 of Goffinet. (Office Action, pg. 3) Goffinet discusses how a printer's setup is stored on the hard drive of the host computer in a file. This printer setup file can then be used to configure other printers.

The cited col. 15, lines 15-40 discuses how a Set OM variable from the setup file is sent to one of the printers to configure. (An OM or Options Manager variable is a variable used to control the operation of the printer. col. 6, lines 59-65) The printer to be configured then performs data validation to determine whether the particular attribute is acceptable. If the printer to be configured deos not support the feature configured by the transmitted Set OM variable, then the laser printer ignroes this command.

The cited section of Goffinet does not disclose the claim requirement of determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing and then only transmitting the values for the determined that the variables are transmitted to the printer to be confgiured regardless of whether the printer can implement the configuration

speciffied by the variable. Instead, the cited Goffinet mentions that the variable is transmitted to the printer regardless of whether the printer supports the variable.

Accordingly, claims 1, 13, and 25 are patentable over Goffinet as Goffinet fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claims.

3. Claims 2-10, 12, 14-22, 24, 26-34, and 36 Are Patentable Over Goffinet

The Examiner rejected claims 2-7, 14-19, and 26-31 as anticipated by Goffinet. Applicants traverse.

Independent claims 2, 14, and 26 concern configuring a plurality of devices linked to a network. A determination is made of a source device from the devices and a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device. A determination is made of a plurality of target devices from the devices. A determination is then made, for each target device, of features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing. The values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing are transmitted to each target device via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network. Different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features.

Thus, claim 2, 14, and 26, like claims 1, 13, and 25, require that the determination of features the target devices can implement is made before the feature values are transmitted to the target devices, such that the features the target devices can implement are transmitted. Claims 2, 14, and 26 further require that different sets of values are transmitted to the target devices commensurate with their capabilities.

The Examiner cited the same col. 15,lines 34-40 of Goffinet as disclosing the claim requirement of determining features the target device can implement. (Office Action, pg. 4) However, as discussed, this cited section of Goffinet only mentions that the configurable values are transmitted, and that the validation occurs at the printer receiving the printer setting.

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Nowhere does this cited section disclose the requirement that the determination of features that the target device can implement is made before sending the feature values, so that each target device can imlement the received values.

The Examiner cited col. 14, line 66 to col. 16, line 6, FIGs 6 and 7, and col. 19, lines 23-31 as teaching the claim requirement that different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities. (Office Action, pg. 4)

The cited col. 14, line 66 to col. 16, line 6 discusses how a setup file of priter settings can be used to configure, with a single command, multiple printers. This cited section mentions how all the same printer settings, or OM variables, are sent to all printers, and that the printers ignore those OM variables not relevant to their capabilities.

Nowhere does this cited section of Goffinet mention the further requirement of claims 2, 14, and 16 that different sets of values are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities. Instead, the cited Goffinet only mentions that the same set of OM variables are sent to all the selected printers; no effort is made to determine supportable OM variables before transmission. Thus, the cited sections of Goffinet nowhere disclose the claim requirement that different sets of v alues are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined features.

Accordingly, claims 2, 14, and 26 are patentable over Goffinet as Goffinet fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claims.

Claims 3-7, 15-19, and 27-31 are patentable over Goffinet as they depend from claims 2, 14, and 26, respectively, which are patentable over Goffinet for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 3, 15, and 27 depend from claims 2, 14, and 26 and further require that determining the features which the target device is capable of implementing further comprises determining whether the target device is capable of implementing the values set in the source device for the determined features that the target device is capable of implementing. Only those values the target device is capable of implementing are transmitted to the target device.

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Claims 3, 15, and 27 provide further detail on the determination of features capable of being implemented at the target device to further include determining value set in the source device for the determined features and then only transmitting those values that the target device is capable of implementing. Because the cited Goffinet nowhere discloses determining features capable of being implemented in the target device to configure, Goffinet also does not disclose determining whether the target device can implement the values for a determined feature. Thus, claims 3, 15, and 27 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

4. Claims 8-10, 12, 20-22, 24, 32-34, and 36 Are Patentable Over the Cited Art

The Examiner rejected claims 8-10, 12, 20-22, 24, 32-34, and 36 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of Goffinet and the combination of Goffinet and Hawes (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,436). (Office Action, pgs. 6, 8) Applicants traverse.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-10, 20-22, and 32-34 in view of Goffinet and the additional parts of Hawes discussing a graphical dialog box displaying values for selected features. (Office Action, pg. 8). However, the Examiner did not cite Hawes as teaching or suggesting the claim limitation of the base claim 2, 14, and 25 of determining the features that the target devices can implement before the feature values are transmitted to the target devices, such that the features the target devices can implement are transmitted. Accordingly, because the additional cited art does not address the deficiency of the primary reference Goffinet with respect to the base claims 2, 14, and 25, claims 8-10, 20-22, and 32-34 are patentable over the cited art as the base claim from which they depend are patentable over the cited art.

Further claims 12, 24, and 36 are patentable over the cited combination of Goffinet and Hawes because they depend from claims 2, 14, and 25, which are patentable over the cited combination.

5. The Added Claims are Patentable Over the Cited Art

The added claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, and 47 depend from claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 25, and 26, respectively, and further require generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.

The added requirement of claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, and 47 is disclosed at page 11, col. 21-28 and page 15, col. 17-20 of the Application, which mentions that the dialog box shows which values were not copied over to the target printer. Moreover, page 15, col. 7-10 discloses that the computer maintains information indicating those values for selected features not copied over to the target printer because the target printer does not include the capability to implement such features.

Applicants submit that nowhere does the cited art teach or suggest the additional requirement of claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, and 47 concerning generating information on values for determined features not transmitted to the target device. Applicants further note that this requirement is similar to the requirement included in the claims the Examiner found to be allowable, claims 11, 23, and 35. Thus, claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, and 47 are patentable over the cited art.

The added claims 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, and 48 depend from claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 25, and 26, respectively, and further require that determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing comprises transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features. This added requirement is disclosed on page. 14, lines 17-27

Applicants submit that nowhere does the cited art teach or suggest the additional requirement of claims 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, and 48 concerning generating information on values for determined features not transmitted to the target device. Applicants further note that this requirement provides further detail concerning the requirement of determining features not available in the target device, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Thus, claims 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, and 48 are patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-48 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit herewith the fee for adding claims and a Petition for Extension of Time and the accompanying fee. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: July 2, 2001

By: _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 23, 29, and 31 have been amended as follows and claims 37-48 have been added:

1. (Amended) A method for configuring a target device linked to a network, wherein a plurality of devices communicate over the network, comprising the steps of:

determining a source device from the devices;

determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device;

determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing, wherein the determined features the target device is capable of implementing differ from the determined set of features; and

transmitting to the target device the values for the determined features that the target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the determined set of features are capable of being selected from a source file including features and values set therefor and wherein the target devices are capable of including at least one file to store values for selected features.

11. (Amended) [The method of claim 9,] A method for configuring a plurality of devices linked to a network, comprising:

(a) determining a source device from the devices;

(b) determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device by:

(i) displaying on a computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

(ii) receiving input from an input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

(iii) displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

(iv) receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

(i) displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

(ii) receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing;

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features; and

[further comprising the step of] (f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating values for selected feature that are not transmitted because the target device is not capable of implementing the selected value for the selected feature.

18. (Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the target and source devices are comprised of printers, wherein the target printers and [computer] processing unit communicate via the network.

23. (Amended) [The system of claim 21, wherein the program logic further comprises] A system for configuring a plurality of devices linked to a network, comprising:

a processing unit capable of communicating with the plurality of devices over the network; and

a computer monitor in communication with the processing unit and an input device for transmitting data to the processing unit;

program logic executed by the processing unit, comprising:

(a) means for determining a source device from the devices;

(b) means for determining a set of features from features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device by:

(i) displaying on a computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

(ii) receiving input from an input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

(iii) displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

(iv) receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

(i) displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

(ii) receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing;

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the

receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features; and

[further comprising the step of] (f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating values for selected feature that are not transmitted because the target device is not capable of implementing the selected value for the selected feature.

29. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the determined set of features are capable of being determined from a source file including feature values and wherein the target devices are capable of including at least one file to store values for selected features.

31. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [28] 30, wherein the determined features from the source printer are comprised of at least one feature that is a member of the set of features comprising:

network interface properties, wherein the target printers are configured with values for the network interface properties to control how the target printers use the network interface to communicate over the network;

print modes including simplex and duplex features;

a console lock feature, wherein a first value locks the printer console and a second value unlocks the printer console; and

an authentication protocol which is used to access the target printers over the network.

33. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [31] 32, wherein the step of determining the plurality of target devices, comprises the steps of:

displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box.

35. (Amended) [The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising the step of] An article of manufacture for use in programming a computer to configure a plurality of devices over a network, wherein the computer includes a computer monitor and input device, and wherein the article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium including at least one computer program that causes the computer to perform the steps of:

(a) determining from the devices a source device;

(b) determining a set of features from the features implemented in the source device, wherein at least one value is set for each feature in the source device, by:

i. displaying on the computer monitor a first graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices;

ii. receiving input from the input device indicating a selected source device from the devices displayed in the first graphical dialog box;

iii. displaying on the computer monitor a second graphical dialog box displaying features implemented within the selected source device; and

iv. receiving input from the input device indicating a value for at least one feature to apply to the target devices from the features displayed in the second graphical dialog box;

(c) determining from the devices a plurality of target devices by:

i. displaying on the computer monitor a third graphical dialog box displaying a list of devices; and

ii. receiving input from the input device indicating at least one target device from the list of devices displayed in the third graphical dialog box;

(d) determining, for each target device, features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing;

(e) transmitting to each target device the values for the determined features that the receiving target device is capable of implementing via the network, wherein the receiving target device is configured with the values transmitted over the network, and wherein different sets of values from the determined set of features are transmitted to different target devices when the target devices have different capabilities with respect to the determined set of features; and

(f) displaying in a fourth graphical dialog box information indicating whether the target device was configured with the transmitted values and displaying, for each target device, information indicating that a value for a selected feature was not applied when the target device is not capable of implementing the selected feature.

--37. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

--38. The method of claim 1, wherein determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.--

--39. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

sub B12 --40. The method of claim 2, wherein determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.

–41. The system of claim 13, wherein the program logic further comprises:

means for generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

sub B13 –42. The system claim 13, wherein the means for determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further performs:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.--

–43. The system of claim 14, wherein the program logic further comprises:

means for generating information on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

Sub B14 –44. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for determining features from the determined set of features that the target device is capable of implementing further performs:

transmitting a query to the target printer to determine whether the target printer supports the determined features.--

–45. The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

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Sub B15

--46. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the step of determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.--

--47. The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising:

generating information for each target device on the values for determined features not transmitted to the target device that the target device is not capable of implementing.--

Sub B16

--48. The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the step of determining features from the determined set of features that the target devices is capable of implementing further comprises:

transmitting queries to each target printer to determine whether each target printer support the determined features.--